

## REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 6-14, 16-19, 27-31, and 33-35 are currently active in this case. Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 13, 16 and 31 have been amended; Claims 1, 4, 5, 15, and 32 have been canceled and Claims 20-26 have been withdrawn. Each amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over *Alpert et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184607, hereinafter *Alpert*), Claims 10-12 and 31 were objected to; and Claims 27-30 were allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the allowance of Claims 27-30 and the identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 6, 8, 10-12, and 31-35.

Applicants also appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy of an interview granted by Examiner Dinh on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>, during which the apparent duplication of claim coverage in Claims 31, and 33-34 was discussed.

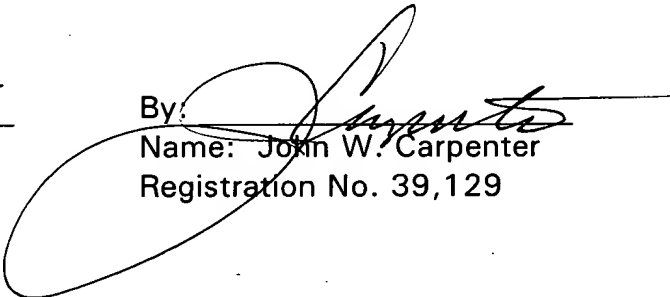
Applicants have amended Claims 6, 8, and 10 to be in independent form and capturing all of the subject matter identified as being patentable in the outstanding Office Action. Claim 31 has been amended to distinguish Claim 10. All other claims ultimately depend from one of the allowed claims or claims capturing the allowable subject matter noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all currently pending claims are allowable over the cited art references.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2603, referencing Attorney Docket No. 351891.03100. A duplicate sheet is attached

Respectfully submitted,  
REED SMITH LLP

Dated: 06 October 2005

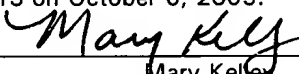
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Missing Parts, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on October 6, 2005.

Dated: October 6, 2005

  
Mary Kelley